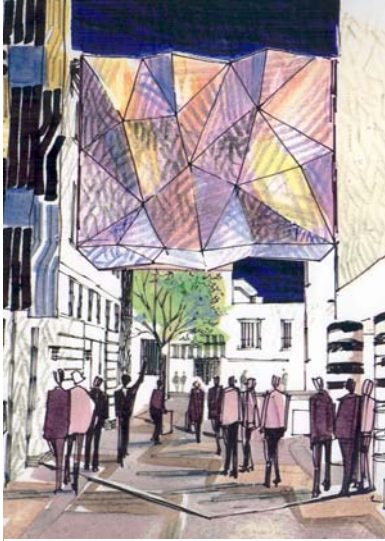


May 10, 2006

## Construction on Harvard Square Improvements to Begin *Monday, May 22, 2006*

### *What improvements does this project involve?*

The upcoming physical improvements will address the storm water system, sidewalks, plazas, bicycle facilities, street lights, and street surfaces in the following locations:



*The New Palmer Street*

- **Palmer Street** between Church and JFK streets will be transformed into a pedestrian destination, with a new patterned roadway, in-ground lighting, banners and improvements to the sky-bridge, as well as the addition of an outdoor theater screen for warm weather community movie nights. The street will remain open to traffic, except during special events. The project, envisioned by public artist Jody Pinto, is made possible with over \$300,000 in additional contributions from five Palmer Street property owners, including Harvard University.
- **Church Street** between Mass Ave and Garden Street will become more pedestrian friendly with a widened sidewalk along the south side of the street between Palmer Street and Mass Ave and pedestrian-scale lighting, as well as road resurfacing.
- **JFK Street** between Memorial Drive and Eliot Street will be reconstructed, with a new road surface, brick sidewalk improvements, and new lighting fixtures.

- A landscaped island at **Lampoon Plaza**- the wide intersection of Mt. Auburn, Bow, and Linden streets- will improve pedestrian safety, eliminate the large expanse of asphalt, and beautify the area.
- **Winthrop Street**, between JFK and Eliot streets, will become a “shared street,” where sidewalks and street surfaces are on the same level, to enhance the pedestrian environment.



*The New Lampoon Plaza*

### *What process went into planning this project?*

The vision for these improvements began nearly eight years ago with the property-owner commissioned study—*Polishing the Trophy*— and has been refined over the years by a committee of residents, business owners, institutional representatives and a Harvard student. Several community meetings were also held to discuss the project with the public at large.

### *What is the schedule for construction?*

This project will take approximately 18 months to complete. General work hours for this construction will be Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Evening and weekend construction will be minimized to the greatest extent possible.

### ***Who is responsible for this project?***

This \$6.8 million project represents a partnership between the City of Cambridge and Harvard University, who has contributed \$1.3 million to the planned improvements. The City's contractor for this project is J. F. White Construction of Framingham.

The City of Cambridge recognizes that during construction it is important to consider the needs of businesses, residents, pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers. We are committed to managing this construction in the most effective manner possible. Louis Mothon, Project Manager, and Arthur O'Brien, Inspector, for the Cambridge Department of Public Works, will be on site daily to ensure that the best construction practices are observed.

### ***What Does This Construction Involve?***

The project involves many phases over the two-year construction period. As this project moves forward, residents and businesses will receive detailed notices about work that most directly affects them. One of the first locations the contractor expects to mobilize is at Lampoon Plaza, where they will begin placing conduit. Utility companies have also begun upgrading their systems in the Square in advance of surface improvements, particularly on Palmer and JFK streets.

As work progresses through the project area, "No Parking" signs will be posted in affected areas at least 24 hours in advance of construction. Please avoid parking in work zones during posted work hours. All businesses and facilities in the project area will remain open and accessible at all times.

### **Learn more about construction at one of these informational meetings:**

#### ***General Informational Meeting***

Thursday, May 18th, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Weiner Auditorium, JFK School of Government

*Enter from Eliot Street (near Bennett), down one level.*

#### ***Meeting for Local Businesses***

Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Cambridge Savings Bank Training Room

Reed Block (enter from 15 JFK)

*This meeting will focus on topics of particular concern to businesses during construction.*

### **For Assistance During Construction**

Including accommodations for *special needs* or *disabilities*, contact Rebecca Fuentes, Community Relations Manager, Department of Public Works at (617) 349-6948/ [rfuentes@cambridgema.gov](mailto:rfuentes@cambridgema.gov). *If an emergency arises after hours or on weekends*, please call the 24-Hour line at (617) 349-4860.

### **Online Resources**

Construction updates/ project overview: <http://www.cambridgema.gov/TheWorks/contents/constInfo.html>.

Design/ planning process: <http://www.cambridgema.gov/%7ECDD/et/infra/hsq/hsq.html>.

Public art component: [http://www.cambridgema.gov/CAC/public\\_progress\\_10.html](http://www.cambridgema.gov/CAC/public_progress_10.html).

To sign up for e-mail updates, e-mail [rfuentes@cambridgema.gov](mailto:rfuentes@cambridgema.gov).

Thank you in advance for your patience during construction. We hope you enjoy these improvements once they are completed.

*The City of Cambridge does not discriminate on the basis of disability. The City will provide auxiliary aides and services, written materials in alternative format, and reasonable modifications in policies and procedures to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.*